

**Arkansas Department Of Education  
Proposed Rules Governing Comprehensive Plan For  
Consistency And Rigor In Course Work**

**1.00 REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

1.01 These rules are promulgated pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-11-105, § 6-15-1506, and § 25-15-201 et seq.

**2.00 PURPOSE**

2.01 The purpose of these rules is to establish a comprehensive plan and process for establishing consistency and rigor in course work.

**3.00 DEFINITIONS - for purposes of these rules, each term below shall be defined as follows:**

3.01 “Comprehensive Plan” means that plan developed and approved by the State Board of Education that set out the process and the time cycle of the external and internal review and revision of content standards and curriculum frameworks in each core academic subject area.

3.02 “Content Standards” means those curriculum course content standards identified and set out in the Arkansas Department of Education Curriculum Frameworks.

3.03 “Core Academic Areas” means those subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, geography, civics, and other courses identified by the State Board of Education as state mandated graduation requirements.

3.04 “Curriculum Frameworks” means those content-specific standards per subject area identified and set out in the course content frameworks required pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. 6-15-407 and Section 9.00 of the Arkansas Standards of Accreditation.

3.05 “End-of Course Exam” means that exam specified in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-419 (7)(F) and (14).

3.06 “Low-Level General Education Tracts” means those courses offered by Arkansas public schools which fail to meet the required content standards and curriculum frameworks as required by Arkansas law or rule.

- 3.07 “State Board of Education Revision Cycle” means that time frame by which the Arkansas Department of Education shall conduct a review and revision of content standards and curriculum frameworks for each core academic subject area as required in the comprehensive plan.
- 3.08 “Statement of Assurance” means that written statement (provided using the attached form marked Exhibit A which is hereby incorporated in this rule by reference) required of a school district superintendent ensuring course content standard and curriculum framework compliance pursuant to Ark. Code Ann.§ 6-15-1505.

#### **4.00 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

- 4.01 The State Board of Education shall develop, through the Arkansas Department of Education, a comprehensive plan and process to review and revise the Arkansas Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Frameworks.
- 4.02 The comprehensive plan shall:
- 4.02.01 Provide for an external review of content standards and curriculum frameworks;
  - 4.02.02 When possible require a full review of available and relevant content standards and curriculum frameworks that are rigorous, specific, sequenced, clear, focused, and measurable;
  - 4.02.03 Include a process for the review of curriculum offerings to ensure that low-level general education tracts offered by districts are eliminated; and
  - 4.02.04 Require that high school course content standards and curriculum frameworks set forth in the plan include the knowledge and skills necessary to enter the work force and also be aligned with the course work required for admission to the state’s institutions of post-secondary education.
- 4.03 The State Board of Education shall, on an ongoing basis, revise all curriculum frameworks and supplemental material that are recommended as a result of the review.
- 4.04 The State Board of Education shall work in collaboration with the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Executive Council to ensure that teacher and school administrative degree programs, ongoing professional development, and other university activity in the state’s public schools are aligned with the revised content standards and curriculum framework process.

- 4.05 The State Board of Education shall ensure that any revisions to content standards and curriculum frameworks process is aligned with the state assessment system for core academic areas, end-of-course tests, and all other components of the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program.

## **5.00 REVIEW**

- 5.01 The Arkansas Department of Education shall review the content standards and curriculum frameworks process plan on the State Board of Education approved revision cycle and report to the State Board of Education annually.
- 5.02 Upon completion of the review/revision cycle, the State Board of Education shall:
- 5.02.01 Align state programs and support material with the revised academic content standards and curriculum frameworks for each academic core area.
  - 5.02.02 Revise and align textbook criteria, support materials, state tests, teacher and school administrator preparation, and ongoing professional development programs to be compatible with content standards and curriculum frameworks; and
  - 5.02.03 Revise and make available to teachers and parents support materials, including teacher and parent guides, for academic content standards and curriculum frameworks.

## **6.00 DISTRICT ASSURANCE**

- 6.01 Each local school district shall establish procedures and a monitoring process to ensure that the content of each course offered by the school district is consistent and in compliance with the latest content standards and curriculum frameworks developed and approved by the State Board of Education.
- 6.02 The superintendent of each school district shall, using the assurance attachment form herein attached as Exhibit A, provide to the Department of Education by October 1 of each school year, a written statement of assurance that the content of each class and subject area course is aligned to the content standards and curriculum frameworks developed and approved by the State Board of Education as required by the Arkansas Standards for Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools regardless of grade or course level.
- 6.03 The Arkansas Department of Education shall monitor any and all necessary documentation related to the district plan and statement of

assurance to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule or Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1502-1506.

- 6.04 No low-level general education tract course shall be utilized or taught by a school district to meet or satisfy the content or curriculum framework standards in those course and graduation requirements set forth in the Arkansas Standards for Accreditation.
- 6.05 If the Arkansas Department of Education determines that a school district has failed to align the content of each class or course and subject area as required by the State Board of Education approved content standards and curriculum frameworks, the Department shall:
  - 6.05.01 Note the failure to comply in the annual school performance report pursuant to Ark. Code Ann.§ 6-15-402; and
  - 6.05.02 Cite the failure to comply of each school on the Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools Annual Report.

Exhibit A

Statement of Assurance

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Superintendent of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ School District, do hereby certify by my  
signature below and by this written Statement of Assurance that the content of each class  
and subject area, as required by the Arkansas Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas  
Public Schools regardless of grade level, is aligned to the latest approved content  
standards and curriculum frameworks developed by the Arkansas State Board of  
Education. This Statement of Assurance is given in compliance with Ark. Code Ann. §  
6-15-1505.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Arkansas Department of Education  
Checklist for the Promulgation  
Of Rules

<u>Action</u>	<u>Date</u>
1. Initial policy discussion with SBE (with copy of proposed rule to attorney)	_____
2. Initial review by SBE (with copy of proposed rule to attorney to attorney)	_____
3. Develop fiscal impact statement and financial impact statements	<u>N/A</u>
4. Deliver hard copy & disk version to Attorney <i>at least 1 week prior</i> to public comment period	<u>10/21/04</u>
5. File regulation and financial and fiscal impact statements with Secretary of State. NOTE: Must be 35 days prior to final SBE approval.	_____
6. Notice of public hearing published in paper for 3 consecutive days. NOTE: Must be 30 days before SBE approval. <i>Comment period begins on first day of publication</i>	<u>10/20/04</u>
Do Director's Memo with notice and copy of proposed rule	<u>10/21/04</u>
7. File regulation, fiscal and financial impact statements, and summary with ALC. NOTE: Must be 30 days <i>before</i> end of public comment period.	_____
8. Public Hearing	<u>11/1/04</u>
9. Final approval by SBE	_____
10. ALC review of regulation, fiscal and financial impact statements	_____
11. File regulation, fiscal and financial impact statements with SOS, include electronic version	_____
12. File regulation, fiscal and financial impact statements with ALC	_____
13. Copy to State Board Office for filing with State Library	_____

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FILING PROPOSED RULES WITH  
THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT/AGENCY Arkansas Department of Education  
DIVISION Accountability  
DIVISION DIRECTOR Dr. Charity Smith  
CONTACT PERSON Dr. Gayle Potter  
ADDRESS 4 Capitol Mall, Room 105-A, Little Rock, AR 72201  
PHONE NO. (501) 682-4558 FAX NO. (501) 682-4886 E-MAIL gpotter@arkedu.k12.ar.us

INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Please make copies of this form for future use.
- B. Please answer each question completely using layman terms. You may use additional sheets, if necessary.
- C. If you have a method of indexing your rules, please give the proposed citation after "Short Title of this Rule" below.
- D. Submit two (2) copies of this questionnaire & financial impact statement attached to the front of two (2) copies of your proposed rule and required documents. Mail or deliver to:

Donna K. Davis  
Subcommittee on Administrative Rules and Regulations  
Arkansas Legislative Council  
Bureau of Legislative Research  
Room 315, State Capitol  
Little Rock, AR 72201

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- 1. What is the short title of this rule? Comprehensive Plan for Consistency and Rigor in Course Work.
- 2. What is the subject of the proposed rule? Requires the Department of Education to develop a comprehensive plan for consistency and rigor in course work offered by local school districts.
- 3. Is this rule required to comply with federal statute or regulations? Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_X\_\_\_\_  
If yes, please provide the federal regulation and/or statute citation.
- 4. Was this rule filed under the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act?  
Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_X\_\_\_\_  
If yes, what is the effective date of the emergency rule?  
  
When does the emergency rule expire?  
  
Will this emergency rule be promulgated under the permanent provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

5. Is this a new rule? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒ If yes, please provide a brief summary explaining the regulation.
- Does this repeal an existing rule? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒ If yes, a copy of the repealed rule is to be included with your completed questionnaire. If it is being replaced with a new rule, please provide a summary of the rule giving an explanation of what the rule does.
- Is this an amendment to an existing rule? Yes ☒ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please attach a markup showing the changes in the existing rule and a summary of the substantive changes.  
**NOTE: The summary should explain what the amendment does, and the mark-up copy should be clearly labeled "mark-up."**
6. Cite the state law that grants the authority for this proposed rule. If codified, please give Arkansas Code citation. Ark.Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-15-1506, 25-15- 201 et seq and Act 1761 of 2003.
7. What is the purpose of this proposed rule? Why is it necessary? *To establish a comprehensive plan and process for establishing consistency and rigor in course work in local school districts.*
8. Will a public hearing be held on this proposed rule? Yes ☒ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, please complete the following:
- Date: November 1, 2004  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Place: Arkansas Department of Education, 4 Capitol Mall, Auditorium, Little Rock, AR
9. When does the public comment period expire for permanent promulgation? (Must provide a date.) November 26, 2004
10. What is the proposed effective date of this proposed rule? (Must provide a date.) January 30, 2004
11. Do you expect this rule to be controversial? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒  
If yes, please explain.
12. Please give the names of persons, groups, or organizations that you expect to comment on these rules. Please provide their position (for or against) if known. N/A



## **SUMMARY**

### **Proposed Rules Governing Comprehensive Plan for Consistency & Rigor in Course Work**

This Rule provides a comprehensive plan to review and revise academic content standards and to insure that the content of each course offered by school districts is in alignment with those content standards approved by State Board of Education (SBE). This Rule requires the district superintendent to sign an annual statement assuring alignment of courses with content standards, monitoring by Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), and forbids low-level general education tract courses.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT Arkansas Department of Education  
DIVISION Accountability  
PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT Dr. Gayle Potter  
TELEPHONE NO. (501) 682-4558 FAX NO. (501) 682-4886 EMAIL gpotter@arkedu.k12.ar.us

To comply with Act 1104 of 1995, please complete the following Financial Impact Statement and file two copies with the questionnaire and proposed rules.

### SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE

*Comprehensive Plan For Consistency and Rigor in Course Work*

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X
2. If you believe that the development of a financial impact statement is so speculative as to be cost prohibited, please explain. N/A
3. If the purpose of this rule or regulation is to implement a federal rule or regulation, please give the incremental cost for implementing the regulation. Please indicate if the cost provided is the cost of the program.

#### **Current Fiscal Year – N/A**

General Revenue \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Funds \_\_\_\_\_  
Cash Funds \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Revenue \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (Identify) \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Next Fiscal Year – N/A**

General Revenue \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Funds \_\_\_\_\_  
Cash Funds \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Revenue \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (Identify) \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any party subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation? Identify the party subject to the proposed regulation and explain how they are affected. **N/A**

#### **Current Fiscal Year**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Next Fiscal Year**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to the agency to implement this regulation? **N/A**

#### **Current Fiscal Year**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Next Fiscal Year**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT OF PROPOSED REGULATION  
(In compliance with Acts 884 and 1253 of 1995)

Regulation Title: *Comprehensive Plan for Consistency and Rigor in Course Work*

Summary Description of Regulatory Proposal: *To establish a comprehensive plan and process for establishing consistency and rigor in course work in local school districts.*

Cite Statutory Authority for this Regulatory Proposal: *Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-15-1506, 25-15-201 et seq. and Act 1761 of 2003*

- I. Fiscal Impact on the Department: (include whether impacts are non-recurring or recurring)
  - A. Resources Required - Personnel, equipment, office space.  
No additional resources required.
  - B. Time Required for Implementation. N/A
  - C. Procedural Changes. N/A
  - D. Other.
- II. Fiscal Impact on Local School District or Others? (Include whether impacts are non-recurring or recurring)
  - A. Resources Required - Personnel, equipment, office space.  
No additional resources required.
  - B. Time Required for Implementation. (?)
  - C. Procedural Changes. N/A
  - D. Other.
- III. Additional Comments.

Prepared by: Dr. Gayle Potter  
Associate Director, Academic Standards and Assessment  
October 21, 2004